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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 H-02 SS-15
SP-02 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15 /062 W
----------105312 182200Z /66
P 182055Z JUL 77
FM AMCONSUL MONTREAL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9222
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY
AMCONSUL QUEBEC PRIORITY
AMCONSUL TORONTO PRIORITY

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 MONTREAL 1170

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, CA
SUBJ: NEW POLL SHOWS USUAL MIXED RESULTS

1. POLL PUBLISHED IN LE DEVOIR TODAY INDICATES 60 PERCENT (WITH EXTRAPOLATION TO INCLUDE A SHARE OF THE UNDECIDEDS) WOULD VOTE FOR "SOVEREIGNTY-ASSOCIATION" IF ECONOMIC TIE TO CANADA CERTAIN, WHEREAS 60 O/O WOULD VOTE AGAINST INDEPENDENCE IF ALL TIES WITH CANADA WERE THEREBY CUT.

2. POLL CONDUCTED SOLELY IN RIDING OF ST. JEAN, WHICH HAS TRADITIONALLY BEEN TYPCIAL OF PROVINCE-WIDE ELECTORAL RESULTS IN ITS VOTING PERCENTAGES. MARGIN OF ERROR CALCULATED AT 4 O/O.

3. FIRST THREE QUESTIONS POSITED WERE:
A. LET'S SUPPOSE THAT AN INDEPENDENT QUEBEC COULD MAINTAIN ECONOMIC TIES WITH CANADA. THEN, IN A REFERENDUM, WOULD YOU VOTE FOR OR AGAINST THE OPTION OF A SOVEREIGN QUEBEC ECONOMICALLY ASSOCIATED WITH CANADA? (ANSWERS IN PERCENTAGES)
FOR: TOTAL, 47.9; FRENCH, 50.5; ENGLISH 19.1; URBAN, 49.6;
RURAL, 41.2.
AGAINST: TOTAL, 30.7; FRENCH, 28.5; ENGLISH, 59.4; URBAN, 29.2;
RURAL, 37.4.
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REFUSE TO ANSWER: TOTAL, 5.6; FRENCH, 4.9; ENGLISH, 11.9;
URBAN, 4.9; RURAL, 8.1.
DON'T KNOW: TOTAL, 14.7; FRENCH, 15.3; ENGLISH, 9.5; URBAN, 15.1;
RURAL, 13.2.
B. IN YOUR OPINION, WHAT KIND OF TIE DO YOU CONSIDER DESIRABLE BETWEEN QUEBEC AND CANADA?
A MORE CENTRALIZED FEDERALISM

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TOTAL, 18.5; FRENCH, 17.5; ENGLISH, 31.0; URBAN, 19.2;
RURAL, 15.5.
STATUS-QUO
TOTAL, 13.6; FRENCH, 12.3; ENGLISH, 23.8; URBAN, 14.0;
RURAL, 11.8.
A MORE DECENTRALIZED FEDERALISM
TOTAL, 33.8; FRENCH, 34.1; ENGLISH, 31.0; URBAN, 33.9;
RURAL, 33.7.
A SPECIAL STATUS FOR QUBEC
TOTAL, 5.2; FRENCH, 5.3; ENGLISH, 4.8; URBAN, 4.9;
RURAL, 5.9.
SOVEREIGNTY-ASSOCIATION
TOTAL, 8.4; FRENCH, 9.9; ENGLISH, 0; URBAN, 7.6; RURAL, 12.0.
INDEPENDENCE
TOTAL, 8.4; FRENCH, 9.0; ENGLISH, 0; URBAN, 9.9; RURAL, 4.2.
REFUSE TO ANSWER
TOTAL, 8.6; FRENCH, 9.2; ENGLISH, 2.4; URBAN, 7.3; RURAL, 13.2.
C. IF IN AN EVENTUAL REFERENDUM IT WAS PROPOSED TO YOU THAT
ALL CONSTITUTIONAL TIES BETWEEN QUEBEC AND CANADA BE CUT IN ORDER
TO MAKE QUEBEC AN INDEPENDENT COUNTRY, WOULD YOU VOTE FOR OR
AGAINST?
FOR: TOTAL, 17.3; FRENCH, 18.6; ENGLISH, 4.9; URBAN, 18.6;
RURAL, 11.7.
AGAINST: TOTAL, 63.2; FRENCH, 61.7; ENGLISH, 80.9; URBAN, 62.9;
RURAL, 65.6.
REFUSE TO ANSWER: TOTAL, 6.0; FRENCH, 5.9; ENGLISH, 7.1;
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URBAN, 5.3; RURAL, 8.7.
DON'T KNOW: TOTAL, 13.3; FRENCH, 13.8; ENGLISH, 7.1;
URBAN, 13.2; RURAL, 14.0.

4. COMMENT: AS AUTHORS OF POLL (PAGE, ROY AND ASSOCIATES) POINT
OUT, RESULTS SHOW CONCEPT OF SOVEREIGNTY-ASSOCIATION IS BADLY
UNDERSTOOD SINCE APPARENTLY (JUDGING BY ANSWERS TO SECOND QUES-
TION) A SIZEABLE NUMBER OF FEDERALISTS SUPPORTED IT ON FIRST
QUESTION. THUS PRINCIPAL EFFECT OF FIRST QUESTION IS TO
UNDERSCORE AGAIN THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ECONOMIC -- AS AGAINST
EMOTIONAL -- ELEMENT IN THIS ISSUE. NONETHELESS, THE
"FEDERALIST OPTION" CLEARLY WON HANDS DOWN IN REST OF POLL.

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5. POLL ALSO CARRIED QUESTIONS ON CONCERNS OF THE PUBLIC AND ATTITUDES TOWARD THE PRESENT PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT. MOST IMPORTANT SECTORS WERE: ECONOMIC, 59.1 O/O; POLITICAL, 14.7 O/O; SOCIAL, 10.6 O/O. EMPHASIS ON ECONOMY NOT SURPRISING IN VIEW ANSWERS TO FIRST THREE QUESTIONS. RE PRINCIPAL PROBLEMS OF PRESENT GOVERNMENT, RESPONDENTS LISTED (IN PERCENTAGES): UNEMPLOYMENT, 51.8 O/O; INFLATION, 21.9; LABOR RELATIONS, 6.5; EDUCATION, 5.5; THE CONSTITUTION AND CANADIAN UNITY, 4.8; CULTURE, 2.4; PUBLIC HEALTH, 2.2; CRIME, 1.9; ECOLOGY, 0.5; AND "OTHERS" A TOTAL OF THREE PERCENT.

6. BREAKDOWN ON ATTITUDES TOWARD THE GOVERNMENT (IN PERCENTAGES):
VERY SATISFIED: TOTAL, 7.0; FRENCH, 7.5; ENGLISH, 0; URBAN, 7.2; RURAL, 6.0.
SATISFIED: TOTAL, 34.2; FRENCH, 36.0; ENGLISH, 11.9; URBAN, 35.2; RURAL, 30.1.
NOT VERY SATISFIED: 27.7; FRENCH, 27.3; ENGLISH, 31.0; URBAN, 28.0; RURAL, 26.5.
MEDIOCRE: TOTAL, 20.0; FRENCH, 18.3; ENGLISH, 42.8; URBAN, 20.1; RURAL, 19.8.
REFUSE TO ANSWER: TOTAL, 2.9; FRENCH, 3.0; ENGLISH, 2.4; URBAN, 2.5; RURAL, 4.4.
DON'T KNOW: TOTAL, 8.1; FRENCH, 7.9; ENGLISH, 11.9; URBAN, 6.9;
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RURAL, 13.2.
THE POLLSTERS NOTE THAT RESPONSES TO SUCH QUESTIONS VARY ACCORDING TO CURRENT CONDITIONS AND THAT THE PROPOSED LANGUAGE LAW WOULD NATURALLY ANTAGONIZE ANGLOPHONES MORE THAN FRANCOPHONES. NONETHELESS, MORE FRANCOPHONES FOUND THE PERFORMANCE OF THE GOVERNMENT TO DATE LITTLE SATISFYING OR MEDIOCRE THAN THOSE WHO FOUND IT SATISFACTORY.

7. MEDIA PLAY, SO FAR (EARLY RADIO REPORTS AND DEVOIR HEADLINE),

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HAS EMPHASIZED MAJORITY FOR SOVEREIGNTY-ASSOCIATION. IF
ANGLOPHONE PRESS FOLLOWS USUAL INSTINCTS, THEIR HEADLINES
WILL GIVE GREATER EMPHASIS TO SIXTY-SIX PERCENT WHO DO NOT
"WANT" INDEPENDENCE AT ANY PRICE."
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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
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SAS ID: 1830686
Secure: OPEN
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TAGS: PINT, CA
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